

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 USSS-00 EB-11 FAA-00 OPR-02

COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SSO-00 IO-14 AF-10 EUR-25 DOTE-00 AID-20

DRC-01 /184 W

----- 123707

R 291614Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6234

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E;O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN PINS LE

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF TWO MOBIL OIL CO. DRIVERS AND ARMED THEFT
OF TWO MOBIL OIL VEHICLES AUTHORIZED TO CIRCULATE FREELY
WITHIN BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1. ON EVENING OF JAN 23 AT 10:30 AND 11:30 P.M,
RESPECTIVELY, JEEPS BELONGING TO THE MOBIL OIL CO.
WERE FORCED OFF THE MAIN ROAD TO THE AIRPORT BY A SMALL PRIVATE
CAR CONTAINING FOUR MASKED, ARMED MEN. IN EACH
CASE, DRIVER WAS LED AWAY BLINDFOLDED, QUESTIONED AT
LENGTH (INCLUDING QUESTIONS AS TO WHY HE WORKED FOR A
COMPANY UNFRIENDLY TO THE ARAB CAUSE) AND SUBSEQUENTLY
RELEASED. VEHICLES, HOWEVER, NOT RETURNED.

2. ABOVE INCIDENTS, WHEN FIRST REPORTED BY MOBIL OIL
CO. TO LEBANESE CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES, WERE UN-
FORTUNATELY TREATED AS MERELY CASES OF STOLEN PROPERTY,
ALTHOUGH THEIR SECURITY IMPLICATIONS WERE FAR MORE
SERIOUS THAN THAT. FOR, NOT ONLY DID ARMED
THEFT AND ABDUCTION TAKE PLACE ON MAIN BEIRUT THOROUGH-
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FARE (WHICH IN VICINITY OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP):

BUT VEHICLES IN QUESTION HAD BEEN USED BY MOBIL OIL AIRPLANE SERVICE CREWS AND THUS WERE AUTHORIZED TO CIRCULATE THROUGHTOUT ALL AREAS OF BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. MOREOVER, AIRPORT PASS ON ONE OF THE DRIVERS WAS TAKEN.

3. ACCORDINGLY, WHEN APPRISED OF THIS MATTER, EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY INFORMED FOREIGN OFFICE AS WELL AS RANKING LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVES IN SECURITY SERVICE AND ARMY OK THE SERIOUS SECURITY IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED FROM POINT OF VIEW BOTH OF US AND LEBANESE INTEREST. BOTH LEBANESE SECURITY AUTHORIZITES AND FOREIGN OFFICE APPEARED GRASP FULL DIMENSIONS PROBLEM AND APPROACH TO FOREIGN OFFICE FOLLOWED UP WITH AIDE MEMOIRE. MOBIL OIL DISCUSSED MATTER WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERIOR MINISTRY.

4. LEBANESE SECURITY AUTHORITIES INFORM US THEY HAVE TAKEN APPROPRIATE MEASURES AT AIRPORT TO COPE WITH THREAT POSED BY POSSIBLE USE OF JEEPS TO ATTACK AIRPORT AND/OR AIRCRAFT. LEBANESE ARMY HAS RAISED MATTER WITH FEDAYEEN OFFICIALS, PRESUMED TO BE INVOLVED ALTHOUGH THERE NO HARD PROOF, AND HAS SOME HOPE THAT JEEPS WILL BE RETURNED. HOUHTON

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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30 JUN 2005

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